



USDA-NASS

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Winter Wheat Production
World Ag Supply & Demand
Barley County Estimates
Ag Prices Received

June 1, 2004 Crop Production Forecast

Montana winter wheat producers are expecting a yield of 34 bushels per acre based on June 1 conditions, down 3 bushels from last year, but up 1 bushel from last month's forecast, according to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Based on the forecast of 1.6 million acres to be harvested, total production would be 54.4 million bushels, down from 63.6 million bushels last year.

Winter wheat growing conditions in Montana improved during the past month due to receiving some much needed precipitation. Condition ratings improved during May, however winter wheat conditions are not as good as a year ago. Conditions for the week ending June 6 were rated 6% very poor, 15% poor, 46% fair, 28% good, and 5% excellent compared with 2% very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, 50% good, and 23% excellent a year ago. While significant rainfall fell in many areas of the state, the rainfall was not enough to improve subsoil moisture conditions which are currently rated 36% very short, 31% short, and 33% adequate. Producers are concerned that high temperatures, wind, and lack of moisture during the rest of the growing season would hurt yield potential. Crop development is ahead of a year ago with 66% of the crop in the boot stage compared with 58% last year and 48% for the 5-year average for the week ending June 6. Winter wheat is beginning to head as 15% of the acreage has headed compared with 7% a year ago and 18% for the 5-year average.

U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard

Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft Red is down less than 1 percent from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White production totals 247 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month.

Across the Nation, winter wheat heading progressed rapidly across the central Great Plains and southern Corn Belt through the first half of the month. At mid-month, 69 percent of the crop was headed, compared with 63 percent last year and 61 percent for the 5-year average. At that time, heading was ahead of the normal pace throughout the Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt. By May 30, heading had advanced to 87 percent complete, 7 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. The crop was completely headed in Arkansas, California, Kansas, and Oklahoma but heading had just started in Idaho and Montana. Late-month development was most rapid in the northern Corn Belt and Pacific Northwest. Crop condition declined during the month in the Great Plains and Corn Belt, but improved in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

World Ag Supply and Demand Estimartes

Because planting of spring crops is still underway in the Northern Hemisphere and remains several months away in the Southern Hemisphere, these projections are highly tentative. Substantial variation may result from weather developments, economic factors, and policy changes. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecasts are used for U.S. winter wheat. For other U.S. crops, the March 31 NASS Prospective Plantings report is used for planted acreage, and methods used to project harvested acreage and yield are noted on each table.

Projected U.S. 2004/05 ending stocks of wheat are down 4 million bushels from last month as smaller production is partially offset by larger carryin stocks. Forecast winter wheat production is 20 million bushels below last month because of lower yields, especially in several major hard red winter producing States. Projected use is unchanged from last month but is down 190 million bushels from last year. The

projected price range is unchanged at \$3.25 to \$3.85 per bushel.

Forecast 2003/04 U.S. wheat ending stocks are up 15 million bushels due to lower-than-expected exports.

The 2004/05 global outlook for wheat has shifted modestly from last month with projected production rising, trade increasing, and stocks growing. Projected 2004/05 global production is up nearly 5 million tons, with foreign production up just over 5 million tons from last month, led by increases for Russia, the EU-25, China, and Iran. Projected global trade is also up from last month, mostly due to increased imports by Iraq of wheat purchased in 2003/04 but not shipped until 2004/05. This year's EU-25 crop is forecast at a record 128 million tons, up 1 million tons from last month and nearly 21 million tons above last year. As a result of this large crop, EU-25 exports are projected at 15 million tons, up 1 million tons from last month and up nearly 6 million tons from last year. Projected Russian exports are up 1 million tons, offsetting a decline in India's exports. Projected global consumption is raised by nearly 2 million tons. Global ending stocks are up 3 million tons from last month but are still more than 2 million tons below the 2003/04 level. The combined 2004/05 stocks of the major foreign exporters (Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU-25) and the former Soviet Union are only marginally higher than last month but are up over 8 million tons from last year.

The 2004/05 outlook for U.S. feed grains is unchanged from last month, with no changes to production, use, and prices. Corn prices in 2004/05 are projected to average \$2.55 to \$2.95 per bushel, compared with a forecast of \$2.45 to \$2.55 per bushel for 2003/04.

Except for grain sorghum and barley, 2003/04 feed grain forecasts are unchanged from last month. Grain sorghum exports are lowered 10 million bushels from last month but feed and residual use is raised 10 million bushels. The projected price range for 2003/04 grain sorghum is lowered 5 cents on each end to \$2.40 to \$2.50 per bushel. Barley imports are raised 5 million bushels. (See table on back page.)

BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2003

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL					IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production Bu.
				Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	8,200	7,100	41	292,000	23	3,300	2,800	61	170,000
Granite	900	300	53	16,000	51	900	300	53	16,000
Lake	2,900	1,400	65	91,000	39	2,600	1,200	72	86,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,300	200	30	6,000	53	--	--	--	--
Powell	2,700	1,600	59	95,000	37	2,300	1,300	71	92,000
Ravalli	1,200	700	61	43,000	47	800	500	82	41,000
Sanders	1,000	600	35	21,000	50	--	--	--	--
Other	800	100	70	7,000	--	2,100	400	60	24,000
NORTHWEST	19,000	12,000	48	571,000	--	12,000	6,500	66	429,000
Blaine	25,500	18,800	36	686,000	11	6,400	4,700	62	291,000
Chouteau	57,700	40,400	23	914,000	10	--	--	--	--
Glacier	105,000	95,300	32	3,051,000	3	16,700	13,900	56	772,000
Hill	26,800	22,500	29	656,000	13	--	--	--	--
Liberty	21,800	18,600	31	585,000	15	2,000	1,500	71	106,000
Phillips	29,700	14,500	28	410,000	18	2,800	600	57	34,000
Pondera	133,000	117,900	43	5,037,000	1	45,900	41,300	75	3,080,000
Teton	110,000	92,800	54	4,983,000	2	58,000	51,000	80	4,059,000
Toole	56,500	50,700	39	1,973,000	4	1,500	1,100	49	54,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	900	69	62,000
NORTH CENTRAL	566,000	471,500	39	18,295,000	--	134,500	115,000	74	8,458,000
Daniels	5,500	2,400	21	51,000	46	--	--	--	--
Dawson	23,800	17,700	36	637,000	14	700	600	88	53,000
Garfield	12,800	2,800	28	77,000	41	--	--	--	--
McCone	19,000	7,300	27	195,000	28	--	--	--	--
Richland	25,000	20,300	52	1,054,000	8	6,300	5,400	97	522,000
Roosevelt	13,800	10,200	37	376,000	21	1,200	600	73	44,000
Sheridan	14,500	10,700	36	383,000	20	--	--	--	--
Valley	17,600	9,100	28	259,000	25	4,100	1,200	41	49,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	700	61	43,000
NORTHEAST	132,000	80,500	38	3,032,000	--	13,500	8,500	84	711,000
Broadwater	7,800	7,000	55	388,000	19	4,600	4,100	85	347,000
Cascade	45,300	31,000	39	1,197,000	7	11,900	10,000	81	808,000
Fergus	58,000	40,300	14	553,000	16	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	36,700	19,200	14	274,000	24	--	--	--	--
Lewis & Clark	9,800	7,700	61	470,000	17	6,300	4,800	81	387,000
Meagher	12,300	8,500	26	221,000	26	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	6,200	1,700	24	41,000	48	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	16,500	12,600	13	165,000	32	--	--	--	--
Other	9,400	4,500	36	161,000	--	12,700	5,600	57	320,000
CENTRAL	202,000	132,500	26	3,470,000	--	35,500	24,500	76	1,862,000
Beaverhead	6,900	2,800	75	209,000	27	6,500	2,400	85	203,000
Gallatin	35,200	30,400	41	1,254,000	6	12,800	9,800	68	667,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	6,300	3,100	55	172,000	31	6,100	2,900	58	167,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,600	700	37	26,000	--	1,100	400	48	19,000
SOUTHWEST	50,000	37,000	45	1,661,000	--	26,500	15,500	68	1,056,000
Big Horn	18,900	14,700	67	982,000	9	10,000	8,700	86	744,000
Carbon	10,100	7,700	87	667,000	12	9,200	7,600	88	665,000
Park	6,100	4,300	38	165,000	32	3,500	2,300	60	137,000
Stillwater	16,000	6,600	29	193,000	29	1,500	800	100	80,000
Sweetgrass	3,000	1,100	54	59,000	44	2,000	900	62	56,000
Treasure	4,600	3,400	92	313,000	22	3,400	2,700	109	294,000
Yellowstone	25,300	20,700	71	1,480,000	5	16,400	14,000	94	1,310,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTH CENTRAL	84,000	58,500	66	3,859,000	--	46,000	37,000	89	3,286,000
Carter	10,400	2,900	21	60,000	43	--	--	--	--
Custer	5,500	2,000	49	97,000	35	1,200	700	96	67,000
Fallon	7,900	3,100	31	96,000	36	--	--	--	--
Powder River	6,100	3,800	37	140,000	34	--	--	--	--
Prairie	4,900	2,300	34	78,000	40	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	7,600	2,400	74	178,000	30	4,000	1,700	92	156,000
Wibaux	4,600	1,500	35	53,000	45	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	1,800	600	75	45,000
SOUTHEAST	47,000	18,000	39	702,000	--	7,000	3,000	89	268,000
MONTANA	1,100,000	810,000	39	31,590,000	--	275,000	210,000	77	16,070,000

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted of one class of barley are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

April 2004 Agricultural Prices Received

April 2004 full month crop prices were mostly higher compared with March 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$3.77 per bushel, up \$0.12 from the previous month; spring wheat price was up \$0.02 to \$3.99 per bushel; and durum wheat prices increased \$0.04 to \$4.15 per bushel. Feed barley prices dropped \$0.07 from the previous month to \$2.08 per bushel. Malt barley averaged \$3.17 per bushel and the all barley price dropped \$0.16 from the previous month to \$2.84 a bushel.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay rose \$2.00 to \$72.00 per ton, but all other hay remained unchanged at \$67.00 per ton. Mid-May grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging \$3.81 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.06 per bushel, durum

wheat was \$4.15 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.10 per bushel and feed barley was \$2.13 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of April were mixed compared to the previous month. Steer and heifer prices decreased \$0.80 to \$95.20 per cwt., while cows increased \$3.60 to \$52.20. The average price for calves was unchanged at \$114.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose \$1.90 to \$34.80 per cwt and lamb prices were down \$14.00 to \$107.00 per cwt. Milk prices increased \$0.90 per cwt from March to \$14.50 per cwt. Mid-month May steer and heifer prices averaged \$96.70 per cwt.; cows averaged \$54.60 per cwt.; calves averaged \$112.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged a record high of \$19.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.79, up \$0.03, spring

wheat was \$3.94, up \$0.02; durum wheat was \$4.22, up \$0.08; the all barley price was \$2.78, down \$0.01, and steer and heifer prices were \$88.90, up \$1.00 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was \$3.64 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.90 per bushel, durum wheat was \$4.19 per bushel, all wheat was \$3.73 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.04 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.29 per bushel, and all barley was \$2.79. Steer and heifer prices were \$92.60 per cwt, cow prices were \$52.40, calves were \$122.00 per cwt., all hog prices were \$57.80 per cwt, and all egg prices were \$0.468 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 132, based on 1990-92=100, is 7 points (5.6 percent) above the April Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	April 2003	May 2003	April 2004	May 2004
Prices Received	101	105	125	132
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	128	127	133	134
Ratio 2/	79	83	94	99

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		April 2003	March 2004	April 2004	April 2004	March 2004	April 2003	May 15, 2004	May 15, 2004
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.32	3.65	3.77	3.79	+0.12	+0.45	3.81	3.64
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.27	4.11	4.15	4.22	+0.04	-0.12	4.15	4.19
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.69	3.97	3.99	3.94	+0.02	+0.30	4.06	3.90
All Wheat	Bu.	3.71	3.89	3.93	3.89	+0.04	+0.22	3.98	3.73
Barley, All	Bu.	2.88	3.00	2.84	2.78	-0.16	-0.04	2.84	2.79
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.24	2.15	2.08	2.16	-0.07	-0.16	2.13	2.29
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.23	n/a	3.17	3.04	n/a	-0.06	3.10	3.04
Oats	Bu.	n/a	1.63	2.04	1.62	+0.41	n/a	n/a	1.64
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	81.00	73.00	70.00	92.70	-3.00	-11.00	72.00	109.00
All Other Hay	Ton	69.00	65.00	67.00	76.00	+2.00	-2.00	67.00	74.90
All Hay Baled	Ton	79.00	71.00	69.00	89.60	-2.00	-10.00	71.00	101.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	82.90	96.00	95.20	88.90	-0.80	+12.30	96.70	92.60
Cows	Cwt	43.50	48.60	52.20	50.50	+3.60	+8.70	54.60	52.40
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	75.80	86.00	79.70	84.80	-6.30	+3.90	76.10	88.40
Calves	Cwt	95.40	114.00	114.00	117.00	n/c	+18.60	112.00	122.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	31.10	32.90	34.80	37.10	+1.90	+3.70	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	93.00	121.00	107.00	100.00	-14.00	+14.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	11.20	13.60	14.50	18.20	+0.90	+3.28	19.10	20.30

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued January 1996.

Wheat: Supply, Disappearance, and Price, United States, 1988-2004

Year Begin- ning June 1	SUPPLY				DISAPPEARANCE						Ending Stocks May 31	Season Avg. Price	
	Begin- ning Stocks	Prod- uction	Imports 1/	Total	Domestic Use				Exports 1/	Total Disap- pearance			
					Food	Seed	Feed 2/	Total					
---Million Bushels---													\$
1988 ..	1,261	1,812	23	3,096	715	103	157	975	1,419	2,394	702	3.72	
1989 ..	702	2,037	23	2,765	749	104	139	992	1,233	2,225	536	3.72	
1990 ..	536	2,730	36	3,302	790	93	482	1,365	1,068	2,434	868	2.61	
1991 ..	868	1,980	41	2,888	789	94	244	1,127	1,280	2,412	475	3.00	
1992 ..	475	2,467	70	3,012	834	99	194	1,128	1,354	2,481	531	3.24	
1993 ..	531	2,396	109	3,036	872	96	272	1,240	1,228	2,467	568	3.26	
1994 ..	568	2,321	92	2,981	853	89	344	1,287	1,188	2,475	507	3.45	
1995 ..	507	2,183	68	2,757	883	104	153	1,140	1,241	2,381	376	4.55	
1996 ..	376	2,277	92	2,746	891	102	308	1,301	1,001	2,302	444	4.30	
1997 ..	444	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,257	1,040	2,298	722	3.38	
1998 ..	722	2,547	103	3,373	908	81	397	1,385	1,042	2,427	946	2.65	
1999 ..	946	2,299	95	3,339	929	92	279	1,300	1,090	2,390	950	2.48	
2000 ..	950	2,232	90	3,272	950	80	304	1,334	1,062	2,396	876	2.62	
2001 ..	876	1,957	108	2,941	926	84	190	1,200	964	2,164	777	2.78	
2002 ..	777	1,606	77	2,460	918	84	113	1,115	854	1,969	491	3.56	
2003 ..	491	2,337	75	2,903	900	82	225	1,207	1,155	2,362	541	3.40	
2004 .. 3/	541	2,061	65	2,667	915	82	200	1,197	975	2,172	495	3.25-3.85	

1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Residual, approximates feed use and includes negligible quantities used for distilled spirits. 3/ Preliminary. SOURCE: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, June, 2004--ERS. Totals may not add due to independent rounding.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production	Grain Stocks
Cattle on Feed	Crop Acreages
Egg Production	
Sweet Cherry Production	
Red Meat Production	

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